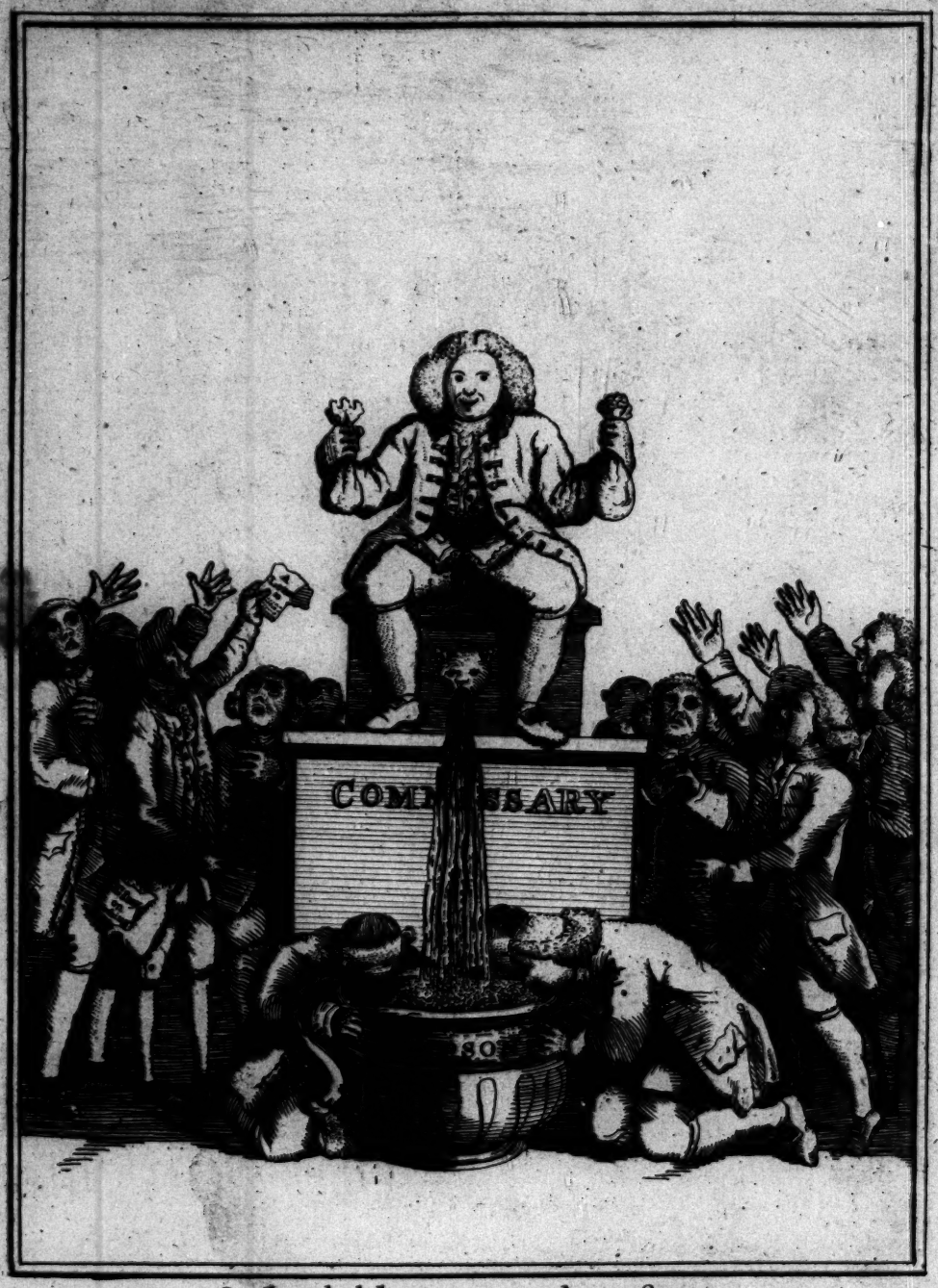
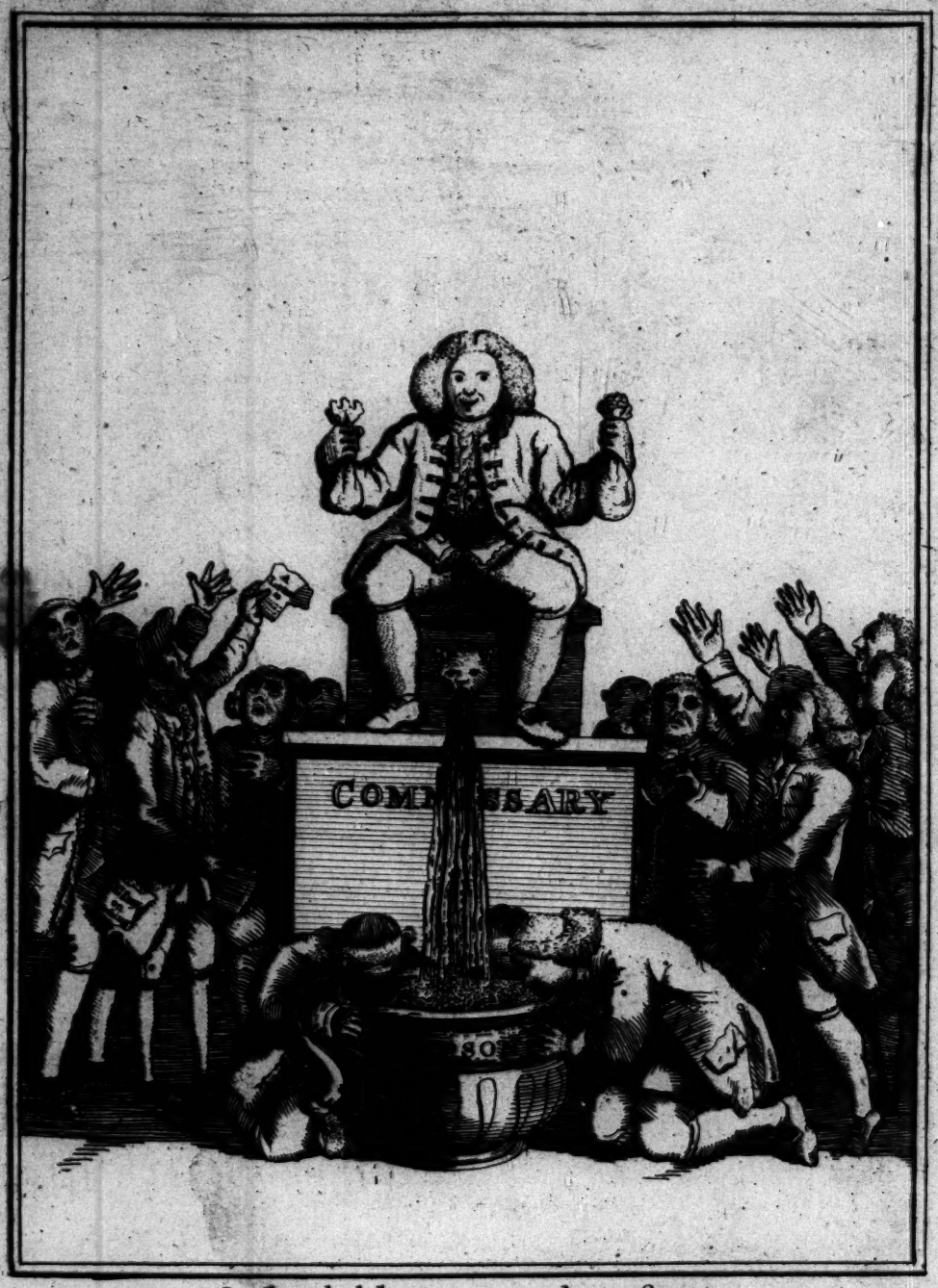


On bended knees your duty ſhow;
Self intereſt thinks nought too low.



On bended knees your duty ſhow;
Self intereſt thinks nought too low.

A PLAN

FOR

DISCHARGING THE INCUMBRANCES

OF THE

CITY OF EDINBURGH,

BY

ADVANCING ITS REVENUES

WITHOUT THE AID OF NEW TAXES;

WITH AN APPENDIX, CONTAINING

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, AND HINTS

FOR A

NEW CODE OF LAWS.

By WALTER WAAGGSTAFFE, Esquire and Burgess.

O Ye simple, understand wisdom:
And Ye fools, be of an understanding heart.

Proverbs viii. 5.

LONDON:

Printed for J. Dodsley and T. Cadell,
And Sold by Charles Elliot, Parliament-Square, Edinburgh.

M, DCC, LXXVIII.

[PRICE ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE.]

A PLAN

FOR

DISCHARGING THE INCUMBRANCES

OF THE

CITY OF EDINBURGH,

BY

ADVANCING ITS REVENUES

WITHOUT THE AID OF NEW TAXES:

WITH AN APPENDIX CONTAINING

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS AND HINTS

BRITISH MUSEUM

DEDICATION.

To the Right Honourable the Lord Provoſt, the Bailies, Counſellors, Treaſurers, *&c. &c. &c.* of the city of Edinburgh,

GENTLEMEN,

IN addreſſing the following TREATISE to your Honours, I do not include in the number of my patrons, thoſe of your body who have ſhown themſelves apoſtates to patriotiſm, and the intereſts of the beſt man that ever repreſented any city in any parliament.

I ADDRESS myſelf to that diſtinguiſhed majority of your body with whom no allurements could prevail, to deſert the cauſe to which they had vowed everlaſting attachment.

YOU have gained Gentlemen, of late, an unparalleled victory, which I hope will inſure to you a laſting ſuperiority over the moſt malicious oppoſition that ever, has been ſtirred up in any borough. After a conqueſt ſo ſignal, ſo full of danger and fatigue, and where the unwary were liable to ſo many ſnares, I cannot conſider you, but as convaleſcents who have undergone the moſt vigorous ſalivation. It muſt not be wondered at, if the conſciences of many of you are ſhattered by the

the violent ſtruggle you have endured. All the world knows how diſintereſted you are in ſerving your worthy repreſentative: No lucrative offices have ever been beſtowed on any of you as the price of your fidelity; nor does it appear that any thing of the kind was ever promiſed. In ſhort, you have approved yourſelves throughout your adminiſtration, patterns of diligence, conſtancy, and ſelf-denial.

THE following Treatiſe, which I have compoſed with unſpeakable induſtry and patience, with a view to the welfare of my native city, and to the honour and conveniency of its rulers, I freely dedicate to your Worſhips, without the formality of begging permiſſion. I do not heſitate to conclude, that you will generouſly pardon my boldneſs. We every day ſee Poets dedicating their Works to Lords, whom they alledge as a proof of their own merit, to be nice critics; an apothecary to a phyſician; a lover to his miſtreſs; and the penner of a lewd rhyme, ſends it to his whore. Why then ſhould I heſitate to addreſs a Treatiſe on Wine, Women, Smells and Morality, to the Magiſtrates of Edinburgh?

YOUR attention to the true intereſts of your City, will make you graſp at a propoſal which promiſes ſo much relief to its neceſſities. Your known attachment to the moſt exquiſite of all liquors, muſt induce you, eagerly to adopt a ſcheme that will proeure it to you upon ſuch advantageous terms. I muſt at this place hint to you, the neceſſity of teaching every member of your party, to drink of this liquor, in preference to rum-punch. It could be no other than that baſe compoſition, which occaſioned one of your moſt corpulent and upright adherents, to go aſtray upon a late juncture.

As

As the corporations of the City have of late proved ſo very refractory, the plan of that which I have ſketched, is admirably calculated to ſecure entire obedience to your authority. Along with its political conveniencies, and the immenſe profit that muſt accrue to the City, the Members of the Council will reap from it an advantage of no ſmall moment; they will have it in their power to procure a flagellation without the leaſt hazard of a diſcovery.

As to my third propoſal, which reſpects the manufacture of ſal-ammoniac, you can be at no loſs. The great ſkill in the pharmaceutic art, which the two learned apothecaries of your body poſſeſs, will point out to the purchaſers of the mixture, the propereſt mode for conducting the proceſs. If any of the ſick inhabitants of the City ſhould diſpute your authority, by refuſing to ſwallow what perhaps they had ſwallowed before, you muſt force them to obedience by an act of Council.

In my plan for improving the morals of thoſe perſons who do not frequent churches, if any difficulties chance to occur, you muſt have recourſe to your learned and faithful chaplain: His liberality of ſentiment, and latitude of opinion, will make him proceed with chearfulneſs in a buſineſs that ſo nearly concerns your ſervants and friends.

In taking my leave of you, Gentlemen, I muſt aſſure you, how much it is my wiſh, that your incomparable maſter and repreſentative may live to reign long over you; and that you may always have the ſaving prudence to rank under his ban-

ner, and to lick the duſt of his chariot wheels, which may prove to you more profitable than the inſide of other mens purſes, is the hearty deſire of

Your ſincere Wellwiſher,

EDINBURGH,
JAN. 1. 1778.

W. WAAGGSTAFFE.

A PLAN

A PLAN

FOR

Diſcharging the Incumbrances of the City of Edinburgh, &c.

IN offering this Plan for promoting the intereſt of my native City, I readily acknowledge myſelf to be of the claſs of Projectors. The world are accuſtomed to hold us in general contempt, very unwiſely paſſing over all diſtinction of ſpecies, to the great diſparagement of many uſeful and ſublime Inventors.

NATURE no where obſerves a more preciſe difference of ſpecies, than in that of Projectors; but previous to an enquiry into the variety of ſpecies, let us firſt ſhow that the genus itſelf is of unqueſtionable uſe and excellence.

THE word Projector is compounded of the two Latin words, *pro*, and *jaceo*. Here it muſt be obſerved, that two Latin words being required to make an Engliſh word, capable of expreſſing the idea, denotes the high importance of the thing expreſſed. The Latin words when literally tranſlated, ſignify to throw forward, or in other language, to put in motion. From this conſtruction it is evident, that, as motion is the life, and reſt the death of nature, that therefore nature cannot ſubſiſt, or continue her operations without the

the aid of a Projector; wherefore it was wiſely ſaid, by a certain Philoſopher, that the Creator of the world was the firſt and greateſt of all Projectors.

WITH reſpect to projectors, as a genus, I venture, in oppoſition to great names, to arrange them in three ſpecies; from this number I at preſent exclude all ſpiritual projectors, and adhere to thoſe of our own kind.

THE firſt, are thoſe men who project for their own private benefit; the ſecond who project for the intereſt of the public; and the third project to the ruin, both of themſelves and the public. I muſt confeſs that this diviſion has an outward reſemblance of the three cardinal diſtinctions of evil, bad, worſe, and worſt; but the reſemblance is merely in appearance, for we do not find, that the firſt and ſecond, like bad and worſe, unite to conſtitute the third. In the firſt claſs, or ſpecies, of projectors, we find men giving lectures on the perpetual motion; German Barons ſelling magnetical dung, and maſons building walls round Baronets houſes, which they are certain of being paid for, and which they are likewiſe certain will be pulled down.

IN the ſecond claſs which is the leaſt numerous, we find Patriots without a maſk; men more anxious to pay the public debts than their own; Kings who labour inceſſantly to make their ſubjects happy without the hope of advancing their own family, and Members of Parliament who open ſhops to vend allum, a thing eſteemed powerful in purging licentious humours from the people.

IN the third claſs, we find great Kings, great Stateſmen, and great Generals. Theſe men are ever employed in extending the glory of their country, whoſe intereſts they never fail to ruin, but I muſt own, to the impeachment of my ſyſtem, not always to the ruin of their own fortunes. An author having of late printed a treatiſe of projectiles *in vacuo*, has made ſome conclude, that there muſt be a fourth claſs of projectors, who work *in vacuo*; becauſe, ſay they rightly, a thing cannot be projected without a projector. But as the exiſtence of a *vacuum*, is not yet concluded on by philoſophers, I cannot think of admitting theſe men as a fourth ſpecies, in my ſyſtem.

FROM

FROM the nature of my ſcheme which is diſintereſted, and from the important good conſequences that muſt follow, it is evident how juſtly I claim a ſtation in the ſecond claſs; no odium can reſt upon it, ſince I have ſhown, that the moſt noble of all works, divine or human, was the project of a projector.

I AM well apprized that the beſt men are thoſe who endeavour to remove the greateſt evils, and that it may be objected to my ſchemes, that they are calculated for the remedy of ſmall evils. It muſt be acknowledged, that Edinburgh and its incumbrances holds a low rank in the ſcale of the nation: But let it be conſidered on the other hand, that to a citizen and free denizon of that city, ſuch as I am, its intereſts are of all others the moſt momentous.

The ſcanty revenues of our City, and its heavy debts, have long been the objects of my commiſeration. It hath grieved me to ſee men, ſo pious, frugal, and diſintereſted as are its preſent Magiſtrates, labouring againſt wind and tide to pay off its debts, when the annual revenue ſcarcely pays the intereſt.

Some wiſe citizens think, that the preſent unnatural oppoſition of the members to the head, amounting to little leſs than a rebellion, has retarded them much in their praiſe-worthy purſuits. Such may be the caſe; but the diſadvantages ariſing from the oppoſition, are more than balanced by the numbers of great men that have been raiſed from obſcurity by the commotion. Of all periods in time, ſcenes of the greateſt tumult have given birth to the greateſt men; they are like ſalamanders, generated by intenſe heat, in which they live, and out of which they die.

BUT thoſe redoubtable politicians whom the emergencies of the times have produced, and who at preſent compoſe the majority in the City Council, have not applied the great talents beſtowed on them by nature, to the ſlow plodding buſineſs of finance. They have trod in the ſublimer paths of politics; in myſterious intrigue, in joſtling and ouſting, and in repelling the inroads of ambitious gentlemen, who ſtrive to ſqueeze in amongſt them, a thing as incompatible as the union of fire and water. In theſe precarious times, a greater conſumption than uſual of the City's revenues has enſued as an uncommon quantity of claret was requiſite to promote unanimity, and to fortify the courage of the party.

NARROW minded people fancy to themſelves, that the politics of a burough may be managed without the help of ſtrong liquors, and that claret ought above all others to be diſuſed, for two important reaſons: The firſt is, that, being the product of France, we encourage our enemies by conſuming it; the ſecond, that France being a nation of ſlaves, ſubjected to the will of a tyrant, the doctrines of ſlavery and arbitrary power, may be imported into the City in the body of the liquor, which paſſing into the bellies and heads of the Magiſtrates, may render them tyrants, and the people ſlaves; and in a little time Baillie J—n W—r may drive his coaches over our necks. But theſe inconveniencies appear frivolous, when it is conſidered, that the power of the City's repreſentative over the City, cannot be preſerved without claret; a conſideration to which all other conſiderations muſt yield.

SOME people think, the ſum charged on the City of late years for claret conſumed by the Magiſtrates, to be exorbitant; but their wonder muſt ceaſe, when they know what mighty things have been effected upon the ſtrength of it. It muſt likewiſe be conſidered, that, for the purpoſes of ſecreſy, ſo indiſpenſibly neceſſary in managing burough politics, the Magiſtrates are forced to hold their conſultations in backſide taverns, and which every conſumer of claret knows, to be the moſt expenſive of all taverns.

THE hopes of both parties being ſtill equal to their animoſity, the great evil muſt neceſſarily increaſe in place of being diminiſhed. This affords a lonely proſpect to the good citizen; but if the rulers of our City will judge it their intereſt to adopt my propoſal, the grievance may be ſpeedily removed, and themſelves enabled to drink more genuine claret, which muſt in time, render their comprehenſions more elevated, and more bright.

THERE are of the City's counſellors, who adhere to the intereſts of its repreſentative, I think eighteen; the remaining number, by reaſon of their contumacy, are not permitted to aſſemble and drink at the coſt of the city.

ALLOWING that they meet five times a-week, which I believe they ſeldom fail to do, and that at every meeting, each perſon drinks three Engliſh quart bottles of claret, the quantity of claret conſumed

in

in the courſe of the year, will be, fourteen thouſand ſix hundred and forty quarts, and if we add to this, fifteen hundred and ſixty quarts for the ſhare of the chaplain, who never fails to attend, and to drink a quantity, double to that of any ordinary member, the amount of the whole, at four ſhillings each quart bottle, will be three thouſand eight hundred and ſixty four pounds Sterling; a great ſum indeed, and which nothing can excuſe, but the glorious and neceſſary purpoſe of preſerving the influence of our repreſentative over the City, ſo requiſite to its exiſtence as a free City.

CLARET wine is bought in France, from fifteen to twenty pounds a hogſhead; but let us ſuppoſe twenty pounds, as the preſent precarious ſtate of affairs, requires that the Magiſtrates ſhould drink wine of the beſt growth. Let orders be given to the City's Chamberlain to commiſſion from France, a quantity of wine ſufficient for a year's conſumption. Mr J—n W—r may be joined in office with the Chamberlain, being a man of great experience, and whoſe unbounded love for the perſon and intereſts of Sir L—— D—— will make him undertake the work without fee, or promiſe of reward. It will be doing ſervice to a City knight, to employ him in remitting the purchaſe money to France, as he may gain more popularity by executing the work *gratis*, than by making ſilly harangues in maſon-lodges, where his vanity appears more conſpicuous than his eloquence.

IN this way, the wine may be landed in Scotland at no higher price than twenty-two pounds *per* hogſhead. The vacant apartments in Heriot's hoſpital, which are not a few, owing to the late deficiences in its revenues, will ſerve for vaults to contain the City's ſtock of wine.

As to the duties, which on French wines amount to about fifteen pounds *per* hogſhead, they ought to be ſaved by every means; not only becauſe they are oppreſſive in their nature, but becauſe it is impolitic to tax a commodity that is intended to promote public good.

IT would be improper to ſay publicly, what I could adviſe in this caſe; but a hint may be given with ſafety to ſenſible people at any time.

THERE is a B—n upon the E—r b—h, a man famed for benevolence and integrity, and who is remarkably fond of ſmuggled wine.

As

As this worthy gentleman has hitherto ſtood as a mediator between king and people, let a contract be entered into with him to this effect. That for his winking at and permitting, or for procuring to be winked at and permitted, the importation of French wine duty free, for the uſe of the City, that he ſhall be furniſhed *gratis*, with a quantity for the uſe of his table.

This negociation muſt be managed with great ſecreſy and addreſs, and as the B——n is an experienced politician, the moſt expert man of the Council muſt be employed to treat with him. Upon the whole, I believe Baillie J—n G—e will be the fitteſt perſon; his ſubtile parts, and flowing eloquence, give him great ſuperiority in argument. If the bargain be ſtruck upon terms nearly equal, the city cannot loſe deeply, as the B——n never was known to laviſh his wine unneceſſarily; only a proviſo muſt be made, that the B——n and his lady, do engage to make oath, that no part of the wine which they receive *gratis*, be ſold, or otherwiſe diſpoſed of to the prejudice of the City.

A wine hogſhead will fill of ſuch bottles as are uſed in taverns, where the Magiſtrates aſſemble, twenty ſeven dozen, more or leſs. In this way there will be required for annual uſe, ſixty hogſheads, and if a half hogſhead is added as a gratuity to B—n —— the coſt of the whole will amount to thirteen hundred and thirty one pounds Sterling, from which will accrue, a ſaving of two thouſand five hundred and thirty three pounds.

If the Magiſtrates can allow themſelves to paſs over this matter with neglect, which I truſt they will not do, I muſt then alter my preſent good opinion of their patriotiſm and œconomy.

From this conſideration, I paſs to one which not only reſpects the people as a repreſented body, but likewiſe in the capacity of individuals. All politicians and ſome moraliſts tell us, that the health and vigour of a ſtate is contained in the health and vigour of the people that compoſe it. Now as concubinage or ſimple fornication, is allowed in theſe times by all ſenſible people, to be highly neceſſary for the preſervation of order and chaſtity; and as the graveſt preſbyterians at laſt admit, that it tends to humble the pride of the fleſh, any ſcheme muſt be readily accepted of, that promiſes to regulate a practice,

tice, at preſent ſo pernicious and diſorderly. I own it would be abſurd, did I think that our worthy Magiſtrates had leiſure to make ſuch a reformation, were not the intereſts of the City revenues, and their own perſonal gratification concerned in it.

THE good Town of Edinburgh muſt not diſdain to follow the wiſe example of others in ſimilar caſes.

IN Holland, Genoa, Venice, and other well conſtituted republics, thoſe ladies who condeſcend to level themſelves to the deſires of men, act under the regulation of the civil Magiſtrate. Now that ſuch a regulation eſtabliſhed by law ſhould prevail in a republic, is an argument for its adoption paſt all debate.

THE condition of a republic previous to the eſtabliſhment of law and order, reſembles a dunghill. In both we find materials raked from every corner, unconnected in their natures, jarring violently, and exciting fervent heat. In the conflict nature never fails to produce ſome thing new and ſurpriſing; for in the latter we ſee muſhrooms and toad-ſtools, generated without ſeed, and in the former, laws and regulations, equally aſtoniſhing, and equally durable.

SINCE the conſtitution of our nature, and the well being of ſociety, cannot, as are ſhewn, diſpenſe with the practice of concubinage, in order that it may be regulated to the convenience and emolument of the public, I propoſe the following eſtabliſhment.

I find by the moſt exact ſcrutiny, in Edinburgh, Canongate, and their ſuburbs, four hundred forty-five females, ſound and unſound, who bend backward at the ſhrine of Venus, excluſive of guides and prieſteſſes. An extenſive traffick is carried on by theſe people in polluted channels, much to their own diſcredit, and little to the profit of the public. The bad conſequences no doubt ariſe from theſe two cauſes; the trade is laid entirely open to unqualified intruders; and their proceedings want the ſanction of the Magiſtrate.

NOTWITHSTANDING that monopolies are reprobated by captious ſhort ſighted politicians, yet I venture to propoſe, that an act of Council be paſſed, erecting them into a corporation, ſubject in all

reſpects to the management and controul of ſaid Council. It occurs indeed, that theſe malignants who oppoſe every ſalutary meaſure of the Council, may queſtion its authority to enact ſuch a law. Leſt a contrivance ſo noble, ſhould fall to the ground while the parties are in diſpute about it, let a bill be preſented to Parliament, tending to confirm the act of Council. The known activity in Parliament of the City's repreſentative, and the marks of zeal and attention he hath hitherto ſhown to the intereſt of his conſtituents, take away all doubt of ſucceſs.

OUR Magiſtrates ſhow their wiſdom in a way differing from all the world. It has been the univerſal practice of men to build bridges over waters, but our wiſe governors, firſt drained away the waters, that they might build a bridge over the dry land. Some thought this exceeding aukward, and compared the three great arches, extending over nothing, to three dogs yawning for a bone.

Now as nature is known to abhor a *vacuum*, let all the arches, great and ſmall, be fitted up like wooden barracks, and divided into apartments proper for the reception of the female corporation. In eſtabliſhing this ſociety, it muſt be enacted, That no female be permitted to carry on the proceſs of love with an intention of gaining money, within the City or liberties, under penalty of whipping and baniſhment; and whoever may be deſirous of keeping a miſtreſs for his private amuſement, muſt purchaſe a licence from the Chamberlain's office; for this he muſt pay, if unmarried, five guineas, if married, ten guineas. The ſouthern abutment of the bridge being the moſt private, ought to be filled with ladies moſt proper for the entertainment of married gentlemen. The northern abutment, being leaſt expoſed to cold winds, will be moſt commodious for old and decayed men; to aſſiſt wearied nature, the youngeſt and healthieſt women, and the moſt prominent, muſt be placed here. Mrs M—r, of whoſe abilities ſome of the Council are well convinced, ought to preſide in this ward, which muſt be provided with thongs and whipping couches. By the foregoing arrangement, the arches will be left entire for the uſe of the public in general; and as men of faſhion are fond to publiſh their gallantries, let the entrances to the apartments under the arches be made exceeding conſpicuous, the outſide of the ſtructure muſt be ornamented with the enſigns of love, which will excite appetite and beautify the City.

SOME

Some may think, that the arches being thus filled with palpable matter, and the current of the air ſtopt, that danger may enſue to the whole fabrick: They are miſtaken. The builders of this bridge ſeem to have been forewarned of the uſe to which it would one day be applied, and have wiſely left void ſpaces in the ledgings, to give free paſſage to the weſt wind; a very comfortable thing to the inhabitants of this ſultry climate.

For the better adminiſtration of order in this corporation, and to receive the money to be collected, a member of the Town Council muſt attend every night in each ward. The prices muſt be ſettled by Act of Council; and for their government I hint the following rates:

For a Peer of the realm - - -	L.	0	12 6
— a Lord of Seſſion, or Baron of Exchequer - -		0	10 6
— a Knight, Eſquire, or Advocate - - -		0	7 6
— a Writer to the Signet, Banker, or Merchant - -		0	4 6
— an ordinary Shop-keeper - - - - -		0	2 6
— a Clerk, Tradeſman, or Man of the Blade - -		0	1 6
— all others, below that rank - - - -		0	1 0

Of this, one half to the lady abiding, and the other to the good Town of Edinburgh, with this addition, that married men, according to their degree, pay double. To render the wives of the Magiſtrates obedient, let thoſe attending for the night, be ſerved *gratis*, either with kiſs or whip. Deacons and others voting for Sir L—— D—— to be ſerved at half price, for preſerving the health of the corporation; and to ſtop the contagion of evil humours, let Meſſ. L——e and T——n be appointed apothecaries, to be paid by their patients. A contract muſt be made with Mr S——n for a competent number of pewter urinals, on which may be engraved the arms of the City, to prevent theft.

For the ſalvation of ſo many ſouls, who muſt needs be in ſome degree of danger, let Baillie J—n W——r be appointed lay-chaplain and ordinary lecturer, and it will be neceſſary that he explain to his hearers, the nature of the thorn that ſtuck in St. Paul's fleſh, and ſtopt the progreſs of his piety.

By

By purſuing this plan, the Magiſtrates may acquire a compleat authority over the inhabitants of the City; for it is obſervable of human kind, that like ſhips, they are beſt guided by the tail; and when our rulers hold the helm of nature in their hands, it reſts with them to ſteer it, how and where they pleaſe. Their opponents will reſemble the inhabitants of a Town beſieged; for if they venture without the ramparts to ſeek water, it will be in the power of the Magiſtrates, to dip their tails in a well that will ſcald them.

As our ladies of the *Ton* parade on the ſurface of the bridge, they will form a pleaſing contraſt with the ladies of the Town inhabiting below. It will appear like the triumph of righteouſneſs over ſin; and the thinneſs of the partition, will typify the affinity of time to eternity.

By the exacteſt calculation I have been able to make, it appears that the City may gain by this inſtitution, ſeven thouſand two hundred twenty ſeven pounds *per annum*. For the greater emolument of the City let it be enacted, That if by any unforeſeen interpoſition during the buſy hours of night, the bridge ſhould chance to fall down, as it did once in the remembrance of young men; in that caſe, the watches, canes, money, and cloaths of the unhappy people who may be ſmothered under the ruins, ſhall become forfeited to the uſe of the City. Their friends and relations muſt be at the charge of digging out their bodies, which, if they refuſe to do, let it be done by ſubſcription, or at the charge of the pariſh.

Having, as I think, happily diſcuſſed a matter of the laſt importance to both ſexes, I proceed with my propoſed ſcheme. If the Magiſtrates be difficulted in eſtabliſhing the internal police of their female corporation, I will publiſh a table of arrangements, calculated to obviate every difficulty: In the mean time, the City chaplain, Dr ——, may be employed in praying with the miſtreſſes of love taverns, and in exhorting them to acquieſce chearfully with the great work of reformation. The Doctor's ſucceſs in perſuading old women to do good things, has been long and well known.

That which falls next under my conſideration, is a thing which to perſons, aliens of our City, appears a nuiſance.

THERE is a practice with us, of throwing the dregs and offals of mankind into the ſtreets at ten o'clock at night, where they remain till next day at noon. This they do, to the ſound of the ſame bell that warns them to church on Sundays. According to cuſtom, I ſhall endeavour, in removing this affair, to convert it to the benefit of our diſtreſſed City.

THERE is a drug, much uſed by our apothecaries, called ſal-ammoniack, which is brought from diſtant countries at a great price. If I can point out a method of manufacturing this coſtly medicine from the produce of our own City, an immenſe ſaving muſt accrue to the community.

SAL-AMMONIACK is produced from the dung and urine of the camels in Arabia: Now, what man would put the excrements of an Arabian camel in competition with thoſe of a citizen of Edinburgh?

I am well appriſed, that, to the inhabitants of our City, as I can teſtify by my own experience, the ſmells which prevail after ten o'clock at night are not a nuiſance. On the contrary, ſome think, that, if they were removed, loſs of appetite and reſtleſſneſs might enſue; ſuch as perſons long accuſtomed to the uſe of ſnuff feel when they want it. As there can be no doubt that theſe midnight ſmells are to ſtrangers an intolerable grievance, it may be debated, Whether it be to the honour and ſafety of the City to have them removed. To ſettle the point, let us ſuſpend the thread of our diſcourſe, while we make

A Digreſſion concerning the Nature of SMELLS.

I AM not of the opinion of thoſe philoſophers who hold, that ſmells are like colours, not ſubſtantial and excited by impreſſions, but mere affections of the nerves. This opinion will not hold water, for then we ſhould be uncertain, whether we ſaw a ſmell, or ſmelt a colour. Such opinions would lead to univerſal ſcepticiſm, a thing in its nature abſurd, conſidering our enlarged underſtandings.

I HOLD that ſmells are effluvias, real corporeal atoms, attracted by our noſes from the maſſes of matter preſented to us. Here indeed a difficulty occurs. There is in the univerſe but one ſimple element or principal of matter; How comes it then, that when ſhe is divided and ſubtiliſed into primitive atoms, capable of being attracted by our noſes, that at all times the ſame ſmells ſhould not be excited?

To obviate this difficulty, it will be neceſſary that we enquire into the mutability of ſmells; for if it can be ſhown, that different feelings of the noſe, can be excited by the ſame particles of matter at different times, my theory muſt hold good. Many men conclude that nature is uniform and immutable in all her operations, becauſe Mr James Beattie, the philoſopher of Aberdeen, has demonſtrated by the help of his own common ſenſe, which he holds ſuperior to other mens philoſophy, that truth is immutable. They conclude therefore, that ſmells are alſo immutable. To ſupport this whimſical novelty, they ſay that as man was made after the image of God, that the hiſtorian meant nothing leſs than to inform us, how exactly the Deity reſembled us. They even go farther in this inſtance and ſay, that the Greek and Roman gods, like the people to whom they belonged, married, procreated, committed rapes and fornication, nay even adultery: In ſhort, they alledge that a propenſity to the work of generation is ſo immutably fixed in nature, that it has been practiſed by our own deities. But here I muſt convict them of an error, for man never could beget man, by immaculate conception.

OTHERS, who adhere to this immutable philoſophy, pretend, that becauſe anatomiſts preſerve bodies for diſſection, by immerſing them in ſpirit of wine, that if a ſpirit, as ſubtile as our ſouls, could be procured by diſtillation, men might be preſerved alive to eternity. The celebrated Doctor Graham, lately made experiments to effect this on ſeveral perſons of our City. He thought to ſubſtitute new ſouls in decayed bodies by means of æther. I know not what his patients, who have ſurvived, think of the experiment; but his friends pretend, that he muſt infallibly have ſucceeded, but for the vitriolic particles in the æther, which coroded the fibres of the brain. In oppoſition to this doctrine of immutability, I undertake to ſhow, by the help of analogy, that ſmells are mutable.

SMELLS, like diſſolvents, are of various forms: Sour for inſtance, is jagged like a prickly pear; bitter, is pointed like a ſmith's file; ſweet, is round like a ſugar plumb. Thus far philoſophers have gone, and it remained to me, to deſcribe the form of the cadaverous. I found that all matter, emitted from the human body, aſſumed the ſpiral form, preciſely like Mr Hogarth's line of beauty. This, no doubt, is owing to the difficulty with which it is expreſſed. This led me to conclude, that cadaverous ſmells muſt be of a ſpiral form; for we find by analogy, that the component parts of a body aſſume the ſhape of the whole maſs. This likewiſe accounts for the ſubtilty and acuteneſs of that feeling; for of all forms, the ſpiral is the moſt inſinuating, and the beſt calculated to maintain poſſeſſion when fairly lodged.

IT is now that I preſume the cauſe is evident, why the citizens of Edinburgh do not eſteem thoſe ſmells cadaverous, which are ſo eſteemed by ſtrangers; for let it be conſidered, that ſpirals, when placed together in a quantity, as in the noſe of an inhabitant of Edinburgh, do naturally, like worms in a bag, roll themſelves into round maſſes. By this means, they no longer act as individual ſpirals, but as aggregate globes, capable of producing a ſweet ſenſation, and which in fact they do. On the other hand, globules of matter which excite the ſenſation of ſweet, when preſſed together in quantities upon the olfactory nerve, by joſtling and ſqueezing each other, adopt the ſpiral form, whereby ſweet ſtraightway becomes cadaverous. This therefore muſt be the reaſon, why the ſmell of a ſugar-houſe reſembles ſo nearly the ſmell of a pig-ſty. A farther exemplification of the mutability of ſmells may be ſeen in the conduct of man and wife. The matter of every kind which exudes from the bodies of a pair when in bed, is of the ſpiral form; but the particles are immediately rolled up in round globules in the noſes of the parties; and we find them calling each other, dear girl, and dear love, and honey, and ſweet honey. This ſhows a particular act of providence, for without ſuch a transformation, the lives of man and wife would be a continued ſcene of nightly diſguſt; but it is high time that we return from our digreſſion.

CON-

CONTINUATION.

SMELLS therefore, in ſpite of the immutable philoſophy and its followers, muſt be held mutable; and it only remains to determine, whether thoſe ſmells, ſo agreeable to the inhabitants of our City, and ſo offenſive to ſtrangers that viſit us, ought to be removed. Two weighty reaſons determine my opinion for their removal. The firſt, that the ſtrangers, who come from all parts of the world to viſit us, finding their noſes ſo rudely inſulted, will ſlander the conduct of our Magiſtrates. The ſecond, that the good Town of Edinburgh being deeply in debt, if the materials, which afford theſe ſmells, can be applied to any profitable purpoſe, their removal muſt contribute to the City's relief.

I THEREFORE propoſe, that the North Loch, inſtead of being converted into a canal, or, (as the magiſtrates rather ſeem to intend), into a kennel, that the mud be wholly ſcooped out. By this means, a capacious baſon will be formed in ſhape like a pickling trough. Let the wooden lands that front the High-ſtreet and Lawn-market, be condemned by the Dean of Guild as nuiſances, and pulled down to make a lining for this baſon. If theſe ſhould prove deficient, a ſupply muſt be had of old coffins from the Grey-friars church-yard.

LET the matter emptied upon the ſtreets at the toll of the ten o'clock bell, be collected into this baſon, which will ſerve as a reſervoir; and to ſave expence in collecting and conveying it thither, let it be done nightly by the City-guard. This will prove a good expedient to prevent theſe conſervators of the City's peace from ſleeping when upon duty; and they will be ready to apprehend rioters, whoſe puniſhment will be in their hands.

As it is at preſent very faſhionable to build Chapels of Eaſe, for the relief of ſinners heavy laden, I would propoſe, that the City-guard-houſe, inſtead of being uſed as an ale-houſe and barber's ſhop, be

be converted into a Houſe of Eaſe. It may in time rival that built by the pious Lady Glenorchy, although the doctrines delivered in each, be not alike pure.

LET the valuable lixivium thus collected, be ſold by meaſure to manufacturers of ſal-ammoniac; and that the City's officers may not be bribed to give large meaſure, a deputation from the Town Council muſt attend to ſtrake the buſhel.

As the quantity that may be collected in the City cannot be aſcertained, it is not in my power to ſay, at preſent, what ſum it may produce; but I am confident it muſt amount to ſomething capital.

FROM this laſt and the preceding inſtitution, a conſequence muſt follow, which tends to confirm the authority of the City's repreſentative, and the preſent magiſtracy, beyond competition.

As the guidance of the female corporation, and the collection of materials for making ſal-ammoniac falls immediately upon the magiſtracy, it is evident, that no gentleman will engage in the conduct of ſuch buſineſs. The D— of B—— is ſtrenuous to introduce *gentlemen* into the Council, and the conduct of Sir L—— D—— ſhews, that he is equally ſtrenuous to introduce men of a very different deſcription. The matter ſtanding ſo, the public may gueſs which are moſt likely to ſucceed, provided that my propoſals are accepted.

HAVING now exhibited three projects for advancing the Revenues of the good Town of Einburgh, it was my intention to have ſtopt here. The number Three is, for many reaſons, eſteemed, the moſt perfect and beautiful. The Deity found it the moſt proper to wrap up the ſublimeſt myſtery that was ever concealed from the weak eyes of men. It repreſents myſtically the head and two arms of a man, the nobleſt parts of the body; as one part contrives, and two parts execute, which is judged the true balance of government in our conſtitution. But, when I came to conſider, that a ſtool with three legs, if deprived of one, inſtantly falls to the ground;

and that a ſtool with four legs, although deprived of one, is ſtill capable to ſtand, nay, even as well as a three legged ſtool, I ſaw the matter in a different light. It is doubtleſs from the ſtrength and perfection of the number four, that the throne of God, as deſcribed by St. John, is ſupported by four beaſts; horſes, for the ſame reaſon have four legs, that in caſe one falls lame, they may walk on three, as we ſee practiſed every day. The pious Mr Boſton has divided man's righteouſneſs into a fourfold ſtate. For all theſe reaſons I reſolved to make my project a fourfold project; that in the event of any one part proving abortive, it might ſtill be preſerved from falling to the ground. I have been thus particular in explaining my ſpiritual meaning, that I may gain the approbation and patronage of that upright man B——e J—n W——r. I rely, that if he finds my ſcheme in harmony with the Goſpels, that he will eſpouſe it, and carry it through, and that without drawing bridle half way, and prevaricating, as we all know ſome men have done upon former occaſions.

RELIGION is the food and exerciſe of the ſoul, as wine and fruition is of the body. We know that Religion has been uſed by wiſe and frugal men as a craft to get money by. Every œconomiſt eſteems the thing lawful in itſelf; but when applied to purpoſes of State, doubly to be commended. In this view, Religion has been turned to tolerable account in our City; but there are in it a certain ſort of people who frequent no viſible church, but are left to the guidance of their own dark underſtandings. That theſe people may not be entirely loſt, and that ſomething of profit may accrue from them to the public, I propoſe as follows:

CONSIDERING that Dr G——t S——t has been diſappointed of the reverſion of a profeſſorſhip, let him be appointed conjunctly with Mr H——o A——t, whoſe ſervices to our repreſentative have not hitherto been rewarded, to teach the new method of expoſing the Scriptures, and the doctrine of the ſoul's immortality. As the gentlemen I now refer to, have an utter averſion to the inſide of a church, let an arch be thrown over the Cowgate, under which they may diſcourſe. This meaſure may in ſome degree alleviate Mr A——t's antipathy to a bridge over that place. Their diſcourſes being delivered under an arch, will reſemble the harangues of the ancient

ancient Stoics in their porches, to the great delight of their hearers, who will be led to believe that their teachers reſemble philoſophers. Perſons attending theſe exhibitions, to pay half a crown for admittance; of which one fifth part to the ſpeaker of the day, and the remainder to the relief of the City. That the public may not be ſuffered to cloy, meetings to be held only once in two weeks.

Considering alſo, that as Mr W——r R—ſs has lately enliſted himſelf into the ſervice of Sir L—— D——, let him, in requital of ſervices to be performed, be appointed clerk or precentor; but as pſalm-ſinging will not be much reliſhed in this congregation, he muſt endeavour to amuſe his audience at the proper intervals, by reciting anecdotes of his adventures in London, with other choice little ſtories, of which he is well provided. For this ſervice, his hearers muſt make a voluntary contribution, each according to his ability, or according to the degree of pleaſure he has received.

I have now finiſhed my fourfold project for advancing the revenues of my native City. If it ſhall have the good fortune to be adopted and carried into execution, which, from the known induſtry and patriotiſm of the majority of our rulers, I firmly rely on; there muſt ariſe by increaſe and ſaving, an additional revenue of ſeventeen thouſand, three hundred and five pounds Sterling *per annum*, to the beſt of my judgment. This great ſum muſt in a few years be equal to all the incumbrances of the City.

It may be a queſtion with ſome, how far it is expedient to relieve the City entirely from its burthens. The immenſe free revenue that would remain at the diſpoſal of the Magiſtrates upon ſuch event, would throw a degree of power into their hands that might prove dangerous. Some are afraid, and I can perceive grounds for their fear, that the haughtineſs conſequent upon great riches, would induce the Magiſtracy to throw off the allegiance they are now under to their repreſentative. This I own would of all human calamities be the greateſt. But upon ſecond thought, I find there can be no juſt ground for ſuch apprehenſion. We ſee daily, that a porter cannot walk ſteadily without his burthen; neither can an aſs walk ſtraight forward unleſs he be laden. From this it is evident, that as the

the backs of our Magiſtrates have long been accuſtomed to the weight of our repreſentative, if they throw off their burthen, their heads would mount above their ſhoulders, to their utter aſtoniſhment.

But to prevent all inconveniences from a too ſudden influx of wealth into our City, I will immediately enter upon the conſideration of a plan, for expending all ſurplus monies with ſafety and elegance, and which in due time ſhall be communicated to the public.

APPEN-

APPENDIX.

MY ſtrict regard to method, is the chief reaſon, why I have ventured to add an appendix to the foregoing Treatiſe. Some think, that a book with a dedication, and wanting an appendix, reſembles a cow with head and horns, but without a tail.—Nevertheleſs, I muſt own, that a conſideration of more weight than a love to mere uniformity, has induced me to make this addition.

Two hiſtorians of our nation, who have lately publiſhed hiſtories of the memorable revolution of 1688, and which they have endeavoured to place in a new light, have each of them added an appendix, containing *authentic* papers, as large as the works themſelves. It was the practice in ancient times, before men were taught to lie, to give hiſtories to the world without citing authorities. When men began to degenerate, the world demanded of the hiſtorians to name the book or record whence he drew his teſtimonies. The practice continued down to our own times; but, with other remnants of man's former purity, is now loſt.

THE two gentlemen I now ſpeak of, conſidering well, that the world had reaſon, from their former conduct, to with-hold belief from a tale that reſted ſolely upon their own teſtimony, judged it neceſſary to print the whole papers from which they had compiled their works, that the public might be convinced they did not write

to miſlead them. To this end, they collected and purchaſed bundles and volumes of ſtate papers, that had been ſcattered through the world for an age, utterly unknown to the moſt induſtrious compilers.

ONE filled his appendix with letters written by Kings and Ambaſſadors, found the Lord knows where, and authenticated by the Lord knows who. The other made up his budget with papers tranſlated from the High Dutch, a language he owned, that neither he nor his horſe underſtood; together with the memoirs of a ſilly King, written by himſelf, and kept by Jeſuits almoſt a century, without the alteration of a word. The device of theſe men was very ſly; and, conſidering their reputed political creed, well calculated to gain credit to their ſtrange aſſertions; for granting that their hiſtories were full of lies, and that their original papers were forged or interpolated, yet, as in logic, two negatives make a poſitive, for the ſame reaſon, in hiſtory, two lies may amount to a truth. For theſe reaſons, leſt any one ſhould doubt the ſincerity of my propoſals, I have thought proper to affix the debates that paſſed in Council, upon the expediency of adopting my plans. I have likewiſe added an account of the ordination of Meſſ. S——t and A——t, with hints towards a new Code of Laws, for the better adminiſtration of police and politics.

DEBATES

DEBATES in Council, on Mr Waaggſtaaffe's propoſals for diſcharging the incumbrances of the City, without the aid of new taxes.

PREVIOUS to Mr Waaggſtaaffe's plan being read, it was ordered, that the members of the Council, who were known to be adherents of the D— of B—— be turned out: It was at the ſame time ordered, that all gentlemen who had formerly ſerved in the Magiſtracy as friends of Sir L—— D——, ſhould be admitted to ſpeak and vote upon the occaſion; all which was done accordingly. The clerk then proceeded to read, which, when he had done, the L—d P——t, as preſident of the aſſembly, got up and obſerved, That as Mr Waaggſtaaffe was evidently a faſt friend of Sir L—— D——, his propoſals ſhould be treated with great reſpect. For his part, he humbly conceived, that the ſcheme was calculated for the good, both of the ſoul and body of the City; and concluded by obſerving, that he had called this full meeting of the Council, that every one might have an opportunity of giving his beſt advice.

HIS Lordſhip having ended his ſpeech ſat down, when B——e H——n forthwith roſe up and ſaid, That it was his humble opinion, that the female corporation ſhould be erected without delay: That it was a project worthy of a very wiſe citizen; and that if their worſhips thought proper, he would point out to them, what kind of ſtuffs the young ladies ought to be clad in.

WHEN he had ended, the D—n of G—d got up. He begged leave to inform their honours, That he had no intention of troubling them at the preſent time; but, that he humbly apprehended, that Mr Waaggſtaaffe meant him, when he told, how that one of our moſt corpulent members, had gone aſtray by drinking rum-punch. He hoped that this honourable meeting would not ſay, That he was like the woman with the big noſe, who took every thing to her; for nevertheleſs, he could aſſure them with a ſafe conſcience, that although he loved rum-punch better than any other drink; that, for

all

all that, he would undertake any day, to drink as much claret as any man in Council; and that the reaſon of his joining Sir L—— D——, after he had joined the D—— of B——, was not owing to rum-punch, but to a thing which he could tell, if he choſe it; but that at preſent it was only between Sir L—— D—— and himſelf. Now ſince they were diſputing about the woman corporation, he would make a motion, which was, That each of the laſſes ſhould be provided with two linen ſhirts, which he humbly apprehended would be a very proper thing.

B—e K—d roſe to ſecond the D—n of G—d's motion. He ſaid, that many a man had ſuffered great inconveniences from the want of clean linen, as few of the girls had above one ſhirt, which could only be clean once a week, and generally had a bad ſmell. He alſo obſerved, that the ſhirts and petticoats of thoſe that walked the ſtreets were commonly wet and draggled, which was ſufficient to damp any man's courage.

HEREUPON B—e J—n W—r got up ſeemingly diſpleaſed. He ſaid, he would take the liberty to aſk the gentleman who ſpoke laſt, Whether the Scriptures ever directed us to put our hands upon a woman's under cloaths, to know if they were wet or dry?

To this B—e K—d made anſwer, That ſome men were not the better for having their noſes always in the Scriptures. To which B—e W—r replied, That ſome men were alike incapable of putting their noſes into the Scriptures, as into other places.

A VIOLENT altercation was now begun between theſe worthy friends of Sir L—— D——, which might have created diviſions in the Council, ſufficient to overturn his power in the City, when Mr T——s S——n, taking opportunity to whiſper the parties ſeperately in the ear, ſilence prevailed immediately.

DEACON S——rs next got up, and obſerved, That he had acted uniformly upon all occaſions in favour of Sir L—— D——, and that he was determined to perſevere. For which cauſe, he would now obſerve, that, as the lodgings of the ladies under the bridge were to be ornamented with the enſigns of love, the outſide walls ſhould be

be made of glaſs; on the inſide of which the enſigns of love might be painted.

Deacon J——n roſe to oppoſe this motion, which he averred was ſelf-intereſted. It was his opinion, That all walls ought to be made of ſtone and lime. He obſerved, that as it was cuſtomary for the boys to mob the b—y houſes, that they might likewiſe take into their heads to mob this one too, although it belonged to the Town; and if they were to do that, the glaſs walls would be pelted to ſhivers in a crack. To this deacon S——rs replied, That, as the north-loch would be full of the Town's affairs, if the boys were to try ſuch pranks as breaking windows belonging to the Town, were a few of them dipt there, it would cure them of their idleneſs. He obſerved farther, that all houſes muſt have windows more or leſs, and liable to be broke in the ſame manner, unleſs Deacon J——n could make all the world as wiſe as himſelf, That they might ſee through a ſtone wall.

Deacon J——n replied, That none but ſots and bankrupts went to bawdy houſes with up ſun, and he did not know the uſe of windows in the dark.

Deacon S——rs ſaid, That he was an inſolent fellow to inſult him: That he had done more ſervice to Sir L—— D—— than he had done; and for leſs money too.

Ask thoſe that helped you to drink the wine that was ſent to you in priſon, quoth Deacon J——n.

A great noiſe now enſued, and it was not until a conſiderable ſpace of time had elapſed, that ſilence could be obtained, when B—e Eſ——n roſe and obſerved, That cream coloured chamber pots, were more elegant, and better adapted than pewter ones.

To this Mr T——s S——n made anſwer, That pewter pots were for many reaſons the moſt frugal, and the moſt proper. If they ſhould chance to fall over the window, they may be lifted up, whole and entire; when they are wore out, they may be ſold for half price; and the arms of the City may be engraven on them cheaper than they can be painted on yellow crockery.

HERE Mr G——t L——e lamented the neceſſity of allowing the arms of the good Town of Edinburgh to be p-ſſ-d on.

To which the Reverend Doctor W——r made anſwer, That the lamentations for our diſtreſs would ſurely be heard in heaven, when the handmaids of the City wept over its arms.

B——E T——n roſe next. He begged leave to inform the Council, That he was not accuſtomed to make ſpeeches, of which he hoped they would all bear witneſs. Nevertheleſs, as he had given bond to ſerve Sir L—— D——, he would not be backward upon ſuch an important occaſion. He then took occaſion to mention, that Mr Waaggſtaaffe had come to their ſhop ſome time ago, to ſpeak about making ſal-ammoniack; in conſequence of which, he had cauſed the waiter of the tavern, to ſave the u--ne that paſſed from the Magiſtracy laſt meeting, and which was done accordingly: That he and Mr L——e had laid their heads together, to find out how it might be properly converted: That they had brought it to paſs; and as a ſpecimen of their ſucceſs, he had brought a lump of it in his pocket to ſhow them. Here he pulled out the preparation, and deſired his brother rulers to taſte. Upon this a gentleman preſent alledged, that a certain gentleman, who was preſent on the night referred to, was a frequenter of houſes of bad fame, for which reaſon, he would not endanger the health of his wife and himſelf in that way. Every one joined in refuſing to partake, and each proteſted that he was not the gentleman alluded to. Preſently B—e J——n G——ve, who had kept ſilence longer than uſual, got up. He obſerved, That as to this matter of ſal-ammoniack, he would readily join in the general concluſion, but that there were ſeveral important difficulties which he was afraid could not be eaſily conquered. Here he entered into a long diſcourſe about the laws of rivers, wherein he ſhowed clearly, That no man can ſtop the current of a river through his grounds to the detriment of the poſſeſſor of land below him: That as the matter of which this ammoniack was to be made flowed in rivers through the ſtreets of Edinburgh, that the current, could neither be ſtopt nor diverted without the concurrence of the Sheriff of the county. He thought that it would, as affairs now ſtand, be impolitic to aſk ſuch a favour from the Sheriff, who, he obſerved, had a cumulative power in the City; which cumulative power certain men in the County were anxious ſhould cumulate ſtill more and more.

ABOUT

About this time, a gentleman was heard to whiſper, That it would be better for the City, that the power of Sheriff ſhould cumulate, than the materials thrown out at ten o'clock at night. Upon this Mr G—ve ſaid, He would be judged by any Dictionary, whether or not he had uſed an improper word to expreſs his meaning. A Dictionary was brought, which confirmed the orthodoxy of Mr G—ve's expreſſion, whereupon the whiſperer was ordered to be turned out, as being an enemy to Sir L—— D——. Mr G—ve next proceeded to ſtate the difficulties that would attend the execution of the plan. He ſaid, that, for his own part, he had never yet refuſed to do work of any kind for Sir L—— D——; nor, upon this occaſion, would he heſitate to ſtrake the buſhel if it could ſerve him in the leaſt.

Upon this, B—e M'D——l obſerved, That the gentleman who ſpoke laſt, was always fond of puzzling a clear argument. He ſaid he would undertake to unravel all his difficulties in the twirling of a ſpindle. For, ſays he, If a conveyance be made by the inhabitants of the City of the matter in queſtion to the Magiſtrates, then the Sheriff's claim muſt go like a rotten thread.

Mr G—ve obſerved in reply, That Mr M'D——l's arguments reſembled a ravelled pirn; and that his concluſions were overſtretched in the winding.

The L—d P——t now declared, That it was high time to proceed to the conſideration of another part of the buſineſs, as the dinner hour was faſt approaching, and it would be a pity to cool the good meat that was preparing.

Upon this B—e M—n roſe up. He ſaid that the great ſavings upon the wine to be imported by the City, and the promiſed quality of the liquor, had drawn in many people of all ranks to eſpouſe the ſcheme. For his ſhare he was againſt it, although that it tended to promote both the intereſt of the City and Sir L—— D——. He took occaſion to ſay, That although he was a wine-dealer, yet he had no intereſted motive in the preſent oppoſition. In the firſt place, He condemned the thing, as being utterly impracticable. In the ſecond and next place, That if ſuch a thing

were

were to be, that it would degrade the ancient metropolis of S——d, to turn it into a ſmuggler.

Mr M—n was ſeconded by all the wine-dealers in the Council, every one of whom declared themſelves diſintereſted; and ſaid, That it was impracticable to import wine by any means duty-free.

Mr J—n G—ve aroſe, and told the gentlemen, how much they were miſtaken in ſaying, That the ſcheme was impracticable. He ſaid he had been pointed out by Mr Waaggſtaaffe to negociate the buſineſs with B—n ——, which he would chearfully undertake, and did not doubt of ſucceſs.

Mr J—n W—r next got up, and ſaid, That he too had been pointed out for a ſhare in the buſineſs by Mr Waaggſtaaffe, to whom he was much indebted for the character of piety and generoſity; but at the ſame time, he could not think of accepting the office that had fallen to his lot. He acknowledged the great love he had for the intereſt of Sir L—— D——, and declared, That through the whole of his political conduct, he had no eye to intereſt or gain of any kind. Nevertheleſs, he would work *gratis* to no man; for he did not ſee, he ſaid, but that ſervices unpaid for, always went unthanked. He was now an old man, and what between his own buſineſs, and the hours ſpent daily for the ſalvation of his immortal ſoul, he had no time to ſpare for any man's buſineſs.

B—e H——r next got up, and begged leave to inform the Council, That it would be impoſſible for the houſe, in which he had the pleaſure to be concerned, to execute the City's buſineſs *gratis*. He hoped his brethren of the Council would conſider the great charge of counting-houſe rent, poſtages, with fire and candle in long nights and cold weather. All theſe joined, he ſaid, put it out of his power to comply with Mr Waaggſtaaffe's propoſal.

Upon this, counſellor D—d S—th got up, and ſaid, That he would execute the buſineſs for nothing if they would make him a Bailie next election. His offer was accepted; upon which the gentlemen deacons and others, at the end of the table, took courage, and demanded a vote upon the queſtion. The gentlemen, dealers in wine, fearing the iſſue, begged that the farther conſideration of the

the whole buſineſs might be put off to the next day, when they might meet again and reſume the buſineſs; after which they would dine together and take a glaſs.

THE Council were now about to diſmiſs, as dinner was announced, when Doctor G——t S——t and Mr H— A—t ſhewed their faces, and begged to be heard.

MR A—t expatiated much on the utility, juſtice, dignity, liberality, elegance, magnanimity, perſpicuity, beauty, regularity, order, variety, &c. &c. of the ſcheme propoſed for himſelf and Doctor S——t. Both declared themſelves ready to accept the office, until ſomething more advantageous could be procured as a recompence for the ſervices they had performed.

THE L—d P——t ſaid, He was now very hungry, and could not wait to hear more ſpeeches; but would order a perſon to meet them at the oyſter-cellar the ſame evening, properly authoriſed to ordain them.

UPON hearing this, Mr W——r R—ſs called out, that he too wiſhed to be ordained to his office at the ſame time. To this his Lordſhip conſented: But Mr R—ſs inſiſted, That, as all the men of ſpirit in Town, who would frequent their lectures, were his intimates, the ſtories and anecdotes with which it was propoſed he ſhould entertain them, would be no novelty.

To this Doctor S——t anſwered, by the bye, That, if the public were cloyed with his old ſtories, he was very capable to make new ones; whereupon the company roſe and went to dinner.

A True Account of what paſſed at the Ordination of Doctor G——t S——t and Mr H——o A——t at the Oyſter-cellar in the Cowgate, on Wedneſday laſt.

IN conſequence of the promiſe given by the L—d P——t, Doctor S——t and Mr A—t came to the place appointed about ſeven o'clock in the evening, Mr W——r R—ſs attending. His Lordſhip had not intimated to them, the name of the gentleman who was to ordain them, but they gueſſed that it would be no other than Dr W——r, the City's chaplain. They waited in great anxiety of mind from hour to hour, until midnight, and no perſon appeared to fulfil his Lordſhip's promiſe. In this interval, they began to think themſelves neglected, and murmurings broke out, ſignifying as that much as they would deſert Sir L—— D——, and go over to the D— of B——, if his Grace would employ them.

THE cauſe of the delay was no leſs than this. The P——t had requeſted of Dr W——r to go that evening, and ordain the new appointed teachers, which he undertook chearfully. But it ſo happened, that, as the Doctor dined that day with the members of the Council, the claret, which he ſwallowed after dinner, rendered it neceſſary to carry him home in a chair, altogether unfit to perform the office he had undertaken. But luckily, the Devil, who was then anxiouſly watching the event of an affair that ſo nearly concerned his intereſt, perceived the Doctor's condition. He inſtantly reſolved, that ſuch an opportunity for advancing his empire on earth ſhould not ſlip through his fingers; whereupon he went forthwith to the Canongate, and borrowed the face of Mr J—s R—h procurator, with which he highed ſtraightway to the oyſter-cellar. Upon knocking, he was inſtantly admitted to his friends, who wondered much at being kept ſo long in waiting.

MR

Mr R—ſs obſerved that he was a Layman, and had no power to ordain; to which his majeſty anſwered, by ſhowing his cloven foot. Paleneſs and ſhivering now ſeized upon the parties; but Satan bad them be of good courage, for although they had ſpent half of their lives in denying his exiſtence, yet he eſteemed them his good friends, as what they had ſpoken againſt him tended more than any thing whatever to extend his dominion over men. He then kiſſed them as a token of his love, whereat they plucked up courage.

Satan then proceeded to tell them, by way of preliminary exhortation, That for many centuries paſt, his government on earth had been very much diſturbed. He could not but confeſs, at the ſame time, he ſaid, that the zeal of Chriſtians had afforded him many ample harveſts, as their animoſities and wars had ſent millions to him, who thought that, from their faith, they were entitled to go elſewhere. He now congratulated himſelf and them his worthy friends, upon the approach of times, when his intereſt might be extended in ſpite, both of the law and the goſpel: For, ſays he, you, my children, may now preach openly in my favour, and fear neither fire nor faggot. How different, he added, from the days, when old women, with whom he had not the ſmalleſt correſpondence, were burnt in hundreds for ſerving him. He ſaid, The preſbyterian preachers had abuſed him in terms unworthy of a gentleman, and had laid many things to his charge, that were utterly falſe. In particular, he denied that the ſouls of the damned were to be calcined with fire and brimſtone, of the truth of which, he would convince thoſe impudent talkers when they were delivered into his hands for their hypocriſy.

His majeſty expreſſed himſelf much pleaſed with their conduct, in enliſting themſelves into the ſervice of Sir L—— D——, who, he obſerved, was his old and intimate friend, and had done not a little to eſtabliſh his intereſt in many buroughs, but particularly in the City which he repreſented.

Last of all, he aſked them, If they were willing to be ordained forthwith, to which they all anſwered in the affirmative. Then, ſays he, you muſt give ſpecimens of your orthodoxy, by defying my enemies. Hereupon they began to utter ſtrange things. One ſaid, That the world made itſelf. Another ſaid, That it was not

made

made at all. A third ſaid, He defied its maker, for he did not believe that ſuch a being exiſted. Thus they went on to give ſpecimens of their faith, each ſtriving to go beyond his antagoniſt; when, unluckily, an oyſter ſticking in Mr H—o A—t's throat, juſt at a time when he was attempting to ſpit up immortality, Dr S——t exclaimed, that *nothing* was no longer mortal, and claimed the victory. This was allowed by Satan, who declared in conſequence thereof, that Dr S——t ſhould be ſenior lecturer.

BEING now ſatisfied of the orthodoxy of the gentlemen probationers, he proceeded to the ceremony of initiation.

IN the firſt place, he put his finger in the mouth of each, as a token of authority to ſpeak: He next breathed in their faces, to give them confidence in public; then he licked their lips with his tongue, to give a true reliſh of his own ſpirit to their doctrine. Laſt of all, he told them, That as they had kiſſed the breech piece of Sir L—— D——, as a mark of their duty and attachment, that they muſt do the ſame to him, who was now their Lord Superior. This they complied with, although not without ſome apprehenſions of danger.

THE ceremony over. Doctor S——t begged of his majeſty, that, as they had undertaken to defend Sir L—— D—— againſt all his enemies, he would be pleaſed to give them his aſſiſtance in a work ſo meritorious. Upon this, Satan drew three quils from behind his ear, all of which, he dipt into a certain place beneath his tail, where they were preſently filled with a liquor neither black nor green. Take theſe, ſays he, my children, and uſe them in the defence of your maſter, and they ſhall proſper in your hands; for the characters, neither of dukes, nor advocates, are proof againſt the power of what they contain. Saying this, he gave a pen to each, and vaniſhed away.

QUOTH Mr A——t, I think he might have paid the reckoning.

QUOTH Mr R—ſs, the devil never fails to leave his beſt friends in the lurch.

QUOTH Dr S—t better in the lurch, than in the hands of the church.

AND ſo it ended.

MATERIALS for a new Code of Laws, intended to regulate the police of the City, and to promote the influence of Sir L------- D------.

LET it be enacted, That houſe holders ſhall, as uſual, be permitted to beat carpets in the ſtreets, upon paying one penny Scots into the hands of the City's treaſurer; and that ſtrangers, who cannot ſubmit to have duſt thrown in their faces upon theſe occaſions, are to pay one penny Sterling, for the privilege of paſſing unmoleſted. EXODUS viii. 16, 17.

CANDIDATES for offices in the Magiſtracy, ſuſpected to be enemies of Sir L—— D——, and favourers of the D— of B——, to be purged, and vomited with allum and ſal-ammoniack, till their blood be purified from all diſaffected humours. EZEKIEL xxiv. 13.

ALL other candidates to undergo a ſlighter purification; the time of which ſhall commence firſt day after mid-ſummer, and to continue until three days before the election. L——e and T——n to be appointed purgators. DEUTERONOMY xxiii. 10.

WHEREAS great complaints have been made of late, that the arms of our Magiſtrates are ſtrained and tired, by carrying wine glaſſes to their heads; let it be enacted, That, for the ſake of expedition, and to ſave trouble, tumblers be ſubſtituted in their places.
SONG of SOLOMON ii. 5.

LET the drum, which beats through the ſtreets of the City at the hour of four in the morning, to awaken the lieges, be ordered to beat for the future at five; for it muſt be conſidered, that as people

do not go to bed so early at present as they did three hundred years ago, five is sufficiently soon to rise and give thanks.

REVELATIONS iii. 13.

CANDIDATES for the deaconship must give bond, that, upon being elected and admitted into Council, they are not to vote for the enlargement of their own privileges, nor for any proposition that may increase their own influence, contrary to the true interest of Sir L—— D——.

EZEKIEL xiii. 10.

CONSIDERING that the stomachs of our Magistrates are vitiated in the days of their humility, by drinking drams and small beer, and that, when in the company of their Master, they often times discharge in his face, the good claret with which he has filled them; let an academy be instituted, to teach them to swallow claret abundantly, and to retain it decently.

DEUTERONOMY xxix. 6.
PROVERBS xx. 1.
ECCLESIASTES ii. 24.

As the heads and shoulders of our Magistrates are bent downwards, by stooping over their shop counters from time immemorial, let the drummer of the city-guard be employed, to teach them, to hold up their heads, and to turn out their toes, like upright men.

PROVERBS x. 13.

LEST the Magistrates should be forced by any emergency to write letters in defence of Sir L—— D—— and themselves, let Clavdero be appointed to teach them to spell and construe, for which he must be paid five pounds Scots *per annum* by the City.

MATTHEW vii. 2.

As it is expected, That the L—d P——t shall make a speech on the day of his election, let the bell-man or common cryer, be employed to instruct him in eloquence, for which the City must pay him ten merks *per annum*.

4 JA 55

NUMBERS xxii. 28.
REVELATIONS vi. 1.
I. KINGS i. 34.

FINIS.